

Michelle Velez shouldered the responsibility of booking talent for the Saturday outdoor street markets this summer and found her career niche in the process.

The senior at University of Indianapolis is a music major who plans to attend Valparaiso University for her master's in arts and entertainment management.

"This internship was an eye-opener for me: I loved it," the Griffith native said. "I found that booking talent, getting everything set up and making sure every performance runs smoothly is something I love to do."

In the early weeks of the outdoor market, Velez, who plays guitar and is classically trained in voice, performed too.

"We were able to tap into talent through social media. It helped that Highland Main Street through the Redevelopment Commission was able to pay musicians this year," she said. "It made such a difference at the market. People sing. They dance. The vendors give the performers vegetables, gift cards, even dog treats. It made everything so much fun."

THE MARKET

The outdoor market features fresh produce, cheeses, breads, teas, coffees, spices, tamales and more.

WHEN: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays through OCT. 18 WHERE: Main Square Park INFO: Call (219) 838-0114 or visit highlandparks.org.

THE MUSIC

Musicians performing from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. ...

SEPT. 13 Hayley Schwartzman

SEPT. 20: Tony Cortina

SEPT. 27: Krystal Quagliara

OCT. 4: David Blixt

OCT. 11: Infinity Pool

OCT. 18: Michael Stupar







